



Decision Made Regarding Coverage for Thousands of Low-Income Elderly and Disabled Arizonans

Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System Announces Award of Contracts for the Arizona Long Term Care System.

(Phoenix, Arizona) May 1, 2006 - AHCCCS (Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System) has awarded eight managed care program contracts to provide long term care services to low income elderly and physically disabled Arizonans who are enrolled in the Arizona Long Term Care System (ALTCS) program.

Currently, more than twenty-two thousand Arizona residents are enrolled in ALTCS. The program is for elderly poor individuals (65 and over), blind, or disabled who qualify for ongoing nursing facility care. ALTCS participants are also covered for medical care, including doctor's office visits, hospitalization, prescriptions, lab work, and behavioral health services. ALTCS has been viewed as a national model for its success in placing and supporting a high percent of individuals in their home or community based residential facilities rather than placement in the more costly nursing home care.

"I was pleased with the number and quality of the managed care companies that submitted proposals to participate as long term care program contractors," says Anthony Rodgers, Director of AHCCCS. "This is additional proof of the outstanding reputation of Arizona's long term care program. We are delighted that we could attract this number of quality health care companies to be contractors to serve our elderly and disabled Medicaid members."

Contracts were awarded to the following companies:

- Maricopa County to Bridgeway (Cencorp), Mercy Care Plan and SCAN Long Term Care
- Pima/Santa Cruz Counties to Pima Health System
- Cochise/Graham/Greenlee Counties to Cochise Health System
- Yuma/La Paz Counties to Bridgeway (Cencorp)
- Mohave/Coconino/Apache/Navajo Counties to Evercare Select
- Yavapai County to Yavapai County Long Term Care
- Pinal/Gila Counties to Pinal/Gila Long Term Care

Proposals were evaluated based on organizational capability and experience, provider network capacity and coverage, program services and quality management, and capitation rates. Contracts are awarded for five years beginning October 1, 2006.

Thousands of elderly and disabled Arizona residents rely on Arizona's Long Term Care System for much needed healthcare services. To learn more about eligibility or the selection process for these important contracts, please contact Tony Rodgers, Director of AHCCCS at 602-417-4711.

The Arizona Long Term Care System was established in December 1988 through a federal 1115 Medicaid waiver to provide long term care services to elderly and disabled persons meeting income and resource requirements and who are at risk of being institutionalized. ALTCS has total of over 41,000 enrolled members, 22,400 of whom are elderly and physically disabled with remaining enrollees served by the state's Division of Developmental Disabilities. The total annual budget for the ALTCS program is \$1.1billion in Federal, State and County dollars.